

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are now pending in this application. New claim 20 is added by this amendment. Each of the pending claims is believed to define an invention that is novel and unobvious over the cited references. Favorable reconsideration of this case is respectfully requested.

Regarding the objection to the drawings, submitted herewith on a separate sheet is a replacement sheet for Figure 1. Figure 1 is labeled "Prior Art" as is required by the Examiner. The withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Claims 6 and 8-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. These claims have been amended to correct the informality noted by the Examiner. Each of the pending claims is believed to all be in aspects in compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112. Therefore, the withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-8 and 10-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art.

Claims 4 and 9 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Independent claims 1, 5 and 10 have been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 4. New claim 20 includes the subject matter of allowable claim 9. Each of these independent claims is therefore now in allowable form. All remaining claims depend from the allowable independent claims. Therefore, the prior art rejections are moot.

Applicants do not necessarily concur with the Office Action characterizations of the claims and/or references, Applicants choose not to discuss such matters. Consequently, the lack of explicit discussion is not to be understood as agreement.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that the prosecution of this application would be advanced by a personal interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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